JMS, PH, JW, LF, WG

Hunt, E. Howard; The Watergate Caper 7/8/72 Harold Weisberg

Today's Wash. Post p. 1s a story quoting William C. Bittman, former federal prosecutor, now representing Hunt and of prestigious Hogan & Hartson firm, as saying Hunt had never left the country, would appear to be questions if asked (Bittman says never asked), yet:

"...the FBI has called off a nationwide search for Hunt. He disappeared from public sight shortly after his name was linked to the suspects arrested inside the Watergate offices of the Democratic Committee on June 17."

What have we here, another Eric Stravo Galt the FBI can't find? Or, assuming they made only the most perfunctory search at known places, he had to hide? It is clear he found it necessary to be unavailable for enough time to make some kind of prepartions or for them to be made for him or on his behalf. It would seem apparent that the FBI was not trying too hard to find him. Possible explanations will follow.

Some of those getting carbons will recall I also have a special, personal interest in Hunt and anything relating to him.

"Sources close to the federal investigation [is there another kind?] of the bugging attempt denied a published report that the break-in had been traced by authorities to a right-wing group of anti-Castro Cubans." I recall no such report or identification of any group. Does anyone?

An unidentified "person familiar with the case" is quoted saying "investigators 'haven't come up with any rational explanation of this thing yet'."

Story concludes with these two graphs of news to the best of my recollection not previously reported in the Post:

"During his appearance in court, Caddy testified that he had 'intimations' that Robert R. Mullen & Co. - the Washington pub;ic relations form where he and Hunt once shared an office - did work for the CIA.

"Robert F. Bennett, president of the Mullen firm, said this week that Caddy was probably referring to work the firm did in the 1960s for Radio Free Cuba, widely reported to be funded by the CIA."

Earlier the story says Caddy left the grand-jurt room at least 13 times to confer with a bank of four carefully-unidentified lawyers waiting outside for him to consult. I suggest that if a lawyer requires <u>four</u> others for such consultation and the Post finds it expedient to name none and not to report legit news it had earlier, there is something to think about. Especially when the news relates to the CIA.

X I believe the fact that Hunt and Caddy had the same office is new. Earlier reports, as I recall, merely place them in the Mullen firm together with others, or not this close.

Any info, suggestions, solicited and appreciated.

If anyone has access to old <u>LMP</u> annuals (<u>Literary Market Place</u>) I'd appreciate listings for Hunt and Littaur and Wilkinson, 500 Fifth Ave., NYC for 1965 and 6, that is, the pages on which Hunt should appear if he does not, continued forward to the point where the L & W listing disappears or is replaced by a successor, if that happens and is indicated. Also, any possible check other similar sources.

Walter, Larry: if thorugh sources available to you in NYC you can get present home address any these pople, appreciate. Wilkinson especially. He then lived in suburbs, that is, 1965. I con't recall if Long Island or mainland. He or L was former Colliers editor. The other, as I seem to call, had also been editor of a prominent magazine.

'Bug' Case Figure to Face Quiz

7/8/72

By Carl Bernstein
and Bob Woodward
Washington Post Staff Writers

E. Howard Hunt Jr., the ex-White House consultant sought for questioning about an attempt to bug the Democratic National Committee headquarters, has agreed to meet with federal authorities investigating the case, government sources said yesterday.

Accordingly, the sources reported, the FBI has called off a nationwide search for Hunt. He disappeared from public sight shortly after his name was linked to the suspects arrested inside the Watergate offices of the Democratic Committee on June 17.

The FBI's search ended when federal authorities received assurances from a Washington lawyer, William C. Bittman, that Hunt would meet with them, sources said.

"If the government wants him to appear then he will," Bittman said early last night. "They have not indicated to me that they want him."

"In effect," said one person close to the investigation, "counsel (Bittman) said he would produce Mr. Hunt and he is being taken at his word."

Bittman, a member of the prestigious law firm of Hogan and Hartson, declined to comment on how he had been retained by Hunt. The attorney is a former federal prosecutor

See INCIDENT, A4, Col. 5

INCIDENT, From A1

who successfully argued the government cases against ex-Teamster president James R. Hoffa and Senate aide Robert G. (Bobby) Baker.

Contrary to published reports that Hunt had fled the country, sources said Bittman had indicated to federal officials that his client is in the United States.

Hunt, who retired in 1970 from the Central Intelligence Agency after 21 years there, was hired as a $100-a-day White House consultant on the recommendation of President Nixon's special counsel, Charles W. Colson.

Hunt was first linked to the alleged plot to bug Democratic headquarters when his name beside the notations "W. H." and "W. House" was found in the address books of two of the five suspects arrested inside the party's offices.

In addition, an uncanceled check from Hunt to a Rockville country club was found among the suspects' belongings.

Sources close to the federal investigation of the bugging attempt denied a published report that the break-in had been traced by authorities to a right-wing group of anti-Castro Cubans.

According to one person familiar with the case, investigators "haven't come up with any rational explanation of this thing yet."

Of the five suspects arrested in the case, three are Cuban exiles who live in Miami; one is an American soldier of fortune who fought with Castro and later fled Cuba; and the fifth is a former CIA official who was employed as the security coordinator for the Committee for the Re-Election of the President.

In another development yesterday, the five suspects' first attorney, Douglas Caddy, appeared again before the federal grand jury investigating the break-in at Democratic headquarters.

Caddy left the grand jury room at least 13 times yesterday to confer with four lawyers who waited outside the jury room—where proceedings are secret and a witness cannot be represented by counsel. Each time Caddy huddled in the corridor with his attorneys and returned to the jury room.

Following an unusual court proceeding last week, a federal judge ordered Caddy who had claimed a lawyer-client immunity, to testify before the grand jury about his relationship with Hunt.

During his appearance in court, Caddy testified that he had "intimations" that Robert R. Mullen & Co.—the Washington public relations firm where he and Hunt once shared an office—did work for the CIA.

Robert F. Bennett, president of the Mullen firm, said this week that Caddy was probably referring to work the firm did in the 1960s for Radio Free Cuba, widely reported to be funded by the CIA.